AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~PC~~ computer system comprising:

a processor coupled with memory and with a ~~plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective~~ plurality of externally-accessible input ports ~~of a PC~~; and

a device discovery system that polls all the plurality of externally-accessible input ports to identify ~~identifies~~ a user-desired input device among a ~~the~~ plurality of substantially similar input devices, wherein the identification is carried out by detecting a signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response to a signal stimulus provided by a user.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 1, further comprising a device configuration system that configures the user-desired input device to operate together with a software application program on the ~~PC~~ computer system.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 2, wherein the software application program is an audio-video communication program that permits the user of the ~~PC~~ computer system to communicate with a second user of a second ~~PC~~ computer system, via an audio-video communication link.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 3, wherein the software program is a Bvideo chat program.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 3, wherein the audio-video communication link comprises a digital subscriber line.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of input ports are coupled to substantially similar ~~input devices comprises~~ audio input devices,

and ~~identifying the user-desired input device comprises~~ the device discovery system identifies the user-desired input device by unmuting an output from the user-desired input device.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 1, further comprising an output device that is housed together with the user-desired input device in a common enclosure.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~PC~~ computer system comprising:

a processor coupled with memory and with ~~an audio input device coupled to any one of~~ a plurality of externally-accessible input ports ~~of a PC~~; and

a device discovery system that polls all the plurality of input ports to discover a valid connectivity of an ~~the~~ audio input device coupled to the ~~PC~~ computer system by detecting a signal that is generated by the audio input device in response to a user providing an audible stimulus to the audio input device.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 8, further comprising a video input device coupled to any second one of a plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a ~~PC~~ computer system; and wherein the device discovery system polls the plurality of input ports to discover a valid connectivity of the video input device to the ~~PC~~ computer system by detecting a signal that is generated by the video input device in response to a user providing a visual stimulus to the video input device.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 9, wherein the device discovery system unmutes the audio input device to discover the valid connectivity of the audio input device to the ~~PC~~ computer system.

11. (Currently Amended) A software wizard program stored on a computer-readable media ~~medium~~, the program comprising:

logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting an audio input device from a plurality of substantially similar audio input devices that have been communicatively coupled to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a ~~PC~~ computer system; ~~and~~

logic configured to identify the user-selected audio input device by polling all the plurality of externally-accessible input ports and detecting a signal that is generated by the user-selected audio input device in response to an audible stimulus that is provided by the user to the user-selected audio input device; and

logic to execute the software wizard program.

12. (Currently Amended) The software wizard system of claim 11, further comprising:

logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting a video input device from a plurality of substantially similar video input devices that have been communicatively coupled to a second respective plurality of externally-accessible input ports of the ~~PC~~ computer system;

logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification labels for each of the plurality of video input devices; and

logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting a video input device from the dropdown list.

13. (Previously Presented) The software wizard system of claim 12, further comprising:

logic configured to identify the user-selected video input device by detecting a signal that is generated by the user-selected video input in response to a visual stimulus signal that is provided by the user to the user-selected video input device.

14. (Currently Amended) The software wizard of claim 13, further comprising:

logic configured to provide instructions to the user for selecting an audio output device from a plurality of audio output devices that have been communicatively coupled

to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible output ports of a ~~PC~~ computer system;

logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification labels for each of the plurality of audio output devices;

logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting the audio output device from the dropdown list; and

logic configured to generate an audible test tone from the selected audio output device.

15. (Previously Presented) The software wizard of claim 14, further comprising:

logic configured to provide a volume control icon;

logic configured to provide instructions to the user to operate the volume control icon to set a desired volume of the selected audio output device; and

logic configured to generate an audible test tone corresponding to the desired volume, from the selected audio output device.

16. (Previously Presented) The software wizard of claim 12, wherein the first and second respective plurality of externally-accessible input ports are respectively common ports.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~PC~~ system comprising:

a processor communicating with memory and executing instructions stored in the memory, the instructions comprising logic configured to discover a user-desired input device among a plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of externally-accessible input ports of the ~~a PC~~ computer system, the logic configured to poll all the plurality of externally-accessible input ports, wherein the discovery is carried out by detecting a signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response to a signal stimulus provided by a user.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 17, further comprising:

logic configured to link a ~~the~~ software driver of the user-desired input device to a software application program on the ~~PC~~ computer system.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~PC~~ computer system of claim 18 wherein the software program is a video chat program.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of discovering and configuring a user-desired input device among a plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a ~~PC~~ computer system, the method comprising:

launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;

instructing the user to provide a signal stimulus into the user-desired input device;

polling all the plurality of externally-accessible input ports for responses to the signal stimulus;

measuring a first signal amplitude that is received at a first input port of the plurality of externally-accessible input ports, the first signal amplitude generated by a first input device among the plurality of substantially similar input devices;

measuring a second signal amplitude that is received at a user-desired input port of the plurality of externally-accessible input ports, the second signal amplitude generated by the user-desired input device in response to the signal stimulus provided by the user; and

processing the first and second signal amplitudes to identify the user-desired input device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is an ~~user-desired~~ audio input device, and the signal stimulus is an audible signal that is coupled into the user-desired audio input device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is a ~~an user-desired~~ video input device, and the signal stimulus is a visual signal that is coupled into the user-desired audio input device.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product storing computer-readable instructions for performing a method of discovering and configuring an ~~user-desired~~ audio output device ~~among a plurality of substantially similar output devices coupled to a respective plurality of externally-accessible output ports of a PC~~, the method comprising:

instructing a user to select the audio input device from a plurality of substantially similar audio input devices that have been communicatively coupled to a plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a computer system;

polling all the plurality of externally-accessible input ports; and

detecting a signal that is generated by the user-selected audio input device in response to an audible stimulus that is provided by the user to the user-selected audio input device

~~launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;~~

~~instructing the user to select the user-desired audio output device from a dropdown list of the software wizard showing device identification labels for each of the plurality of audio output devices; and~~

~~instructing the user to operate a volume control icon of the software wizard to set a desired volume of the user-desired audio output device; and~~

~~generating an audible test tone corresponding to the desired volume, from the user-desired audio output device.~~